GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1190
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
DIPLOMATIC BAGS OF MEA IN PRIVATE HAND
Kumar Shri Shailendra

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Indian diplomatic bags which contain top secret official code, messages and the like between headquarters and our diplomats at foreign missions have landed with a private firm for handling and transportation as reported in The Hindustan Times dated July 15, 2006;

(b) If so, the details in this regard;

(c) The private firm to whom the contract was given;

(d) The manner/criteria adopted for awarding such contracts; and;

(e) The names of the companies which applied for the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) & (b) In view of tightened security requirement at the IGI airport requiring prior X-ray, tagging before delivery and other documentation for outbound/incoming consignments, it was decided that the transportation of Diplomatic Bags from South Block and Akbar Bhavan to IGI Airport for handing over to various airlines for onward carriage to Missions and receipt of incoming diplomatic bags would be better streamlined if given to a professional agency. It was also argued that a professional agency would bring about a more efficient system and they would be better equipped to carry out the specialised job. There would be no security risk as the mandate of the firm would only be to transport and deliver to/from the airlines at the airport, closed and sealed diplomatic bags.

(c) M/s Dadson Global Cargo (CHA No.R093/98) were awarded the contract, which was signed on 3 July 2006.

(d) After vetting of the draft agreement by the Legal & Treaties Division of the Ministry and clearance from Internal Finance on the general financial rules (GFR) and cost aspect, a limited tender (in view of the security and specialisation requirement) was floated to ten companies including Air India and Department of Posts. Department of Posts regretted their inability to handle the diplomatic bags outside the postal channel. The lowest quotation fulfilling the requirements laid down in the tender was given the contract which was subject to security clearance.

(e) Three companies, namely

(i) M/s Dadson Global Cargo, D-229 Defence Colony, New Delhi,

(ii) M/s Bhrara & Co. Pvt. Ltd., 42 Satyaniketan, New Delhi and

(iii) M/s Mega Air & Sea Cargo, 204, 2 Community Centre, Phase I, Naraina, New Delhi quoted for the limited tender.